

tread lightly!®

LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



To find out how you can become involved and make a difference contact Tread Lightly! at:

298 24th Street, Suite 325

Ogden, Utah 84401, USA

800.966.9900, Fax 801.621.8633

E-mail: [treadlightly@treadlightly.org](mailto:treadlightly@treadlightly.org)

Other materials available through

Tread Lightly! include:

Guidebooks, T-shirts, hangtags, teaching manuals, maps, decals

*Tread Lightly!® is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower generations to enjoy the outdoors responsibly through education and stewardship. Tread Lightly!'s educational message, along with its training and restoration initiatives are designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them. The program is long-term in scope with a goal to balance the needs of the people who enjoy outdoor recreation with the needs of the environment.*

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Tread Lightly!'s

Tips for

Responsible

ATV RIDING



**T**ravel and recreate with minimum impact

**R**espect the environment and the rights of others

**E**ducate yourself, plan and prepare before you go

**A**llow for future use of the outdoors, leave it better than you found it

**D**iscover the rewards of responsible recreation

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## TRAVEL AND RECREATE WITH MINIMUM IMPACT

- ▶ Stay on designated routes.
- ▶ Travel only in areas open to ATV use.
- ▶ On slick trails, moderate the throttle and use the clutch to gain maximum traction with minimum tailspin.
- ▶ On switchbacks, avoid roosting around the apex of the turn when climbing or brake-sliding during descent, both of which gouge the trail.
- ▶ Cross streams only at designated fording points or where the trail crosses the stream.
- ▶ Avoid riding in meadows and marshy areas.
- ▶ When winching always inspect your equipment, use the right winch for the situation, find a good secure anchor, and never winch with less than five wraps of wire rope around the drum.
- ▶ When using a tree as a winching anchor, use a wide tree strap to avoid damage to the trunk of the tree.
- ▶ Protect the soundscape by preventing unnecessary noise created by your vehicle.
- ▶ Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites, camping 200 feet from water resources and trails, and minimizing use of fire.
- ▶ Observe proper sanitary waste disposal by burying waste 6-8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from trails, campsites, and water resources or pack your waste out.

## RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- ▶ Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- ▶ Ride only where permitted.
- ▶ Leave gates as you find them. Respect private land.
- ▶ Yield the right of way to those passing you or traveling uphill. Yield to mountain bikers, hikers, and horses.
- ▶ Keep the noise and dust down.
- ▶ Pack out what you pack in.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF, PLAN AND PREPARE BEFORE YOU GO

- ▶ Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to ATVs. Make a realistic plan, and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- ▶ Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures, and permit requirements.

- ▶ If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).
- ▶ Check the weather forecast.
- ▶ Prepare for the unexpected by packing a small backpack full of emergency items.
- ▶ Wear a helmet, eye protection, and other safety gear.
- ▶ Buddy up with two or three riders. Riding solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or breakdown. Designate meeting areas in case of separation.
- ▶ Know your limitations. Watch your time, your fuel, and your energy.
- ▶ Don't mix riding with alcohol and/or drugs.
- ▶ Understand how to operate your vehicle and its controls.
- ▶ The *ATV RiderCourse*<sup>SM</sup> provides a fast-paced, half-day, hands-on training session. Call the ATV Enrollment Express toll-free at 1-800-887-2887 to enroll.
- ▶ Make sure your vehicle is mechanically up to task. Be prepared with tools, supplies and spares for trailside repairs.

## ALLOW FOR FUTURE USE OF THE OUTDOORS, LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT

- ▶ Carry a trash bag on your vehicle and pick up litter left by others.
- ▶ Avoid "spooking" livestock and wildlife.
- ▶ Avoid sensitive habitats: wetlands, meadows and tundra.
- ▶ Following a ride, wash your ATV and support vehicle to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.
- ▶ Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in designated wilderness areas, this includes ATVs.

## DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

- ▶ ATV riding provides the opportunity to get away from the rush of everyday life and builds family traditions.
- ▶ Careless operation of your ATV can cause resource damage and may result in closing areas.
- ▶ By using common sense and common courtesy, what is available today will be here to enjoy tomorrow.

Download The Tread Lightly! Guide to Responsible ATV Riding for more useful information for riding in the great outdoors at [www.treadlightly.org](http://www.treadlightly.org).